



Biography

NEBRASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Col Robert A. Athan



Col. Robert A. Athan is the Commander of the 155th Operations Group of the 155th Air Refueling Wing, Nebraska Air National Guard at Lincoln, Nebraska. The Wing contributes to the Air Force Global Reach mission by supporting U.S. and allied military forces worldwide with aerial refueling and transportation of passengers and cargo.

Col Athan began his career in June of 1976, enlisting in the Nebraska Air National Guard as an Avionics Sensor System Specialist. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in November of 1979 through the ANG Academy of Military Science. He completed undergraduate navigation training at Mather AFB, CA, in 1980 and attended RF-4C RTU at the 16th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Shaw AFB, SC. While a traditional guardsman, he worked as a production director for Designer Graphics. Upon graduation from the ANG Fighter Weapons school in 1987, he served as an Operational Testing and Evaluation Officer on the Navigation Weapons Delivery System program for the RF-4C Phantom at Eglin AFB, FL. He accepted a full time position with the 155th Tactical Reconnaissance Group in 1989 where he served in various positions as an Instructor/Evaluator Weapons

System Officer, Photo Processing and Interpretation Facility Officer, Weapons and Tactics Officer, Deputy Chief of Standardization/Evaluation, Chief of Wing Plans, Logistics Support Flight Commander, Operations Support Flight Commander, Maintenance Squadron Commander, and Vice Wing Commander. Col Athan assumed command of the 155th Operations Group in March of 2006 directing OEF/ONE missions and participates in contingency flying operations supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Education:

1985- BFA in Education, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE
1987- USAF Fighter Weapons School Graduate, Boise, ID
1995- Air Command and Staff (Seminar program), Offutt AFB, NE
2001- Air War College (Seminar program), Offutt AFB, NE
2002- Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course, Sheppard AFB, TX
2006- Masters of Arts in Management and Leadership, Doane College, Lincoln, NE

Assignments:

Jun 1976 - Nov 1979, Avionic Sensor Systems Specialist, 155th Tactical Recon Group, Lincoln, NE
Nov 1979 - Aug 1980, Undergraduate Navigator Trainee, 60th Flying Training Wing, Mather AFB, CA
Aug 1980 - Oct 1981, Student, RF-4C RTU, 16th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Shaw AFB, SC
Oct 1981 - Jul 1987, Navigator, 173d Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Lincoln, NE
Jul 1987 - Oct 1987, Student, Fighter Weapons School, 124th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Boise, ID
Oct 1987 - Oct 1988, Tactics Officer, 155th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Lincoln, NE
Oct 1988 - Mar 1989, Flight Evaluator, Det. 1, ANG Operational Testing and Eval Cntr, Eglin AFB, FL
Mar 1989 - Jan 1990, Deputy Chief of Tactics, 155th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Lincoln, NE
Jan 1990 - May 1993, Deputy Chief of Stan/Eval, 155th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Lincoln, NE
May 1993 - Aug 1993, Student, KC-135R RTU, 93 AREFS, Castle AFB, CA
Aug 1993 - Oct 1998, Deputy Chief of Plans, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE
Oct 1998 - Feb 2002, Chief of Wing Plans, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

Assignments cont:

Jul 2003 - May 2004, Maintenance Squadron Commander, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

May 2004 - Mar 2006, Vice Wing Commander, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE

Mar 2006 - Present, Operations Group Commander, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Lincoln, NE.

Flight Information:

Rating: Master Navigator

Flight Hours: Over 4100 hours

Aircraft Flown: T-37B, T-43, RF-4C, F4-C, F4-E and KC-135R/E/T

Major Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

AF Commendation Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters

AF Achievement Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster

Joint Meritorious Unit Award with 1 oak leaf cluster

AF Outstanding Unit Award with 7 oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with 10 oak leaf clusters

Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster

National Defense Service Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Kosovo Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Medal

Korean Defense Service Medal

Armed Forces Services Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster

Humanitarian Service Medal

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

AF Overseas Ribbon Short with 2 oak leaf clusters

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border with 1 oak leaf cluster

AF Longevity Service Award with 5 oak leaf clusters

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 2 'M' Devices and 1 GHG

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with 1 oak leaf cluster

AF Training Ribbon with 1 oak leaf cluster

NATO (Yugoslavia) Medal

Effective Dates of Promotion

Second Lieutenant - 15 Nov 79

First Lieutenant - 15 Nov 82

Captain - 15 Nov 86

Major - 15 Nov 93

Lieutenant Colonel - 15 Mar 99

Colonel - 17 Mar 05

Current as of May 2006